

District V Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
July 07, 2008
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The **District V Advisory Board Meeting** was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Auburn Hills Golf Course Clubhouse, 443 S. 135th St. W. In attendance were eight (8) District Advisory Board members, four (4) staff and eight (8) citizens with three (3) signing in.

Members Present

Councilman Jeff Longwell
David Dennis
Joey Ellzey
Kelly Watkins
Mike Hill
Darrell Leffew
Dana Brown
Jay Buckmaster
Pat Ream- Alternate

Staff Present

Don Kirkland, Water Utilities
Officer Robyn Douty, WPD
Battalion Fire Chief Sid Newby, WFD
Megan Buckmaster, Neighborhood Assistant

Members Absent

Clarke Sandberg
Jay Flinn
Bryan Frye
Mike Bell
Logan Fritz- Youth Member

Guests

listed on last page

Order of Business

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the June 02, 2008 meeting. Motion passed 8-0.

Motion was made to approve the revised agenda for the July 07, 2008 meeting. Motion passed 8-0.

Public Agenda

1. Scheduled items

April Leason, Marketing Director, Park West Plaza, presented on Park West Plaza Retirement Community. She invited the DAB members and members of the public to come tour the newly renovated facility located on Maize Rd just south of the Dillon's complex on Central.

Action: Receive and file

2. Off Agenda items

Jerry Smith, 2410 Watersedge Cir, suggested that the WPD provide officers with “sensitivity” training to better deal with families of victims and the feelings of families during the investigation and grief process. Smith provided several case examples.

Mike Hill suggested Mr. Smith contact the Captain or Acting Captain at the Patrol West Sub Station with his ideas and concerns.

Staff Presentations

3. Community Police Report

Officer Robyn Douty, Community Police, reported on crime stats on beats: 16, 18, 19, and 199. **Beat 16:** There will be a citizens meeting on Thursday, July 10th, at 1:30 p.m. on the 10th floor of City Hall to discuss the proposed Grand Central Station establishment located at Town West Shopping Center. **Beat 18, 19 and 199:** There continues to be an increase in auto larceny and open garage door burglaries. Recent arrests were made in auto larceny cases and construction site thefts. The Westlink NA is holding a meeting on July 15th. The association is growing its boundaries one more mile.

Action: Receive and file.

4. Wichita Fire Department Report

Fire Battalion Chief Sid Newby reported on Fire Department concerns and issues: 4th of July fireworks- several citations were issued. There is an increase in Block parties during summer months. There is a decrease in grass fires due to rainfall increases. Fire deaths in residential fires are higher than normal. These deaths are caused mostly by cooking accidents or faulty or non-existent smoke/ fire detectors. Construction at the newest Westside fire station #21 is on target.

Longwell asked that a Fire Department report be added to each monthly agenda.

Action: Receive and file.

New Business

5. Water Rate Increase

Don Kirkland, Assistant Director, Water Utilities, presented information on the proposal to increase water utilities rates, a step that is necessary to fund current and future system improvements. Kirkland discussed the history of the water supply, the ASR (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) project, how rainfall affects water purchasing which affects rate structure, and the importance of maintaining the debt-service ratio. The following recommendations for water rate increases were presented: 2008- add \$1.00 to the base charge. 2009-adjust block 1 and 2 rates by \$0.29 and \$1.28 respectively. 2010- 2012- across the board increase of 8%.

Dana Brown asked if rainfall is the major reason for the proposed rate increase. **Kirkland** responded yes; rainfall and the water rate system. **Brown** asked if the number of outside municipalities who use City water continues steady. **Kirkland** responded yes they are and that is a good thing. We can sell the water we currently have for the higher rate- 60% premium.

David Dennis made several comments 1. He appreciated the opportunities he had to tour Wichita Water facilities. He said it had been a great learning experience. 2. With the plans to send the property tax reduction/ city sales tax to vote in November, council had promised to not raise taxes elsewhere. The public needs to be educated that this rate increase is a separate utility and is not a tax rate increase.

Mike Hill commented that this proposal might be a tough sell due to the fact that families everywhere have to cut back on expenses and that government needs to “tighten the belt” and stop increasing residents living expenses.

Darrell Leffew commented that he supports the rate increase because he is thankful for the great water Wichita has. Many other communities have such bad water they have to drink bottled water.

Kelly Watkins asked if we do not get the expected amount of rainfall would the projected rate increase change/ lower. **Kirkland** responded possible some but very minimal because we are still expected to pay off past debt.

Dennis asked about the state funding received for the ASR project- is there any funds for this? **Kirkland** responded that they are doing everything they can to tap into any state funding available.

Joey Ellzey asked about the ASR project and how pumping 100 million gallons of water out of the Little Arkansas River will affect the flow of the river. **Kirkland** responded they only pump water above base flow. There will be no negative effect on river flow because of the project.

Jane Byrnes, 9500 Delano, asked about the rumors that there are medications showing up in water systems. **Kirkland** responded that these are found in other areas, not Wichita and there are National studies being conducted. He remarked that people need to be careful about what they are flushing/ disposing of into their water systems.

Jerry Smith, 2410 Watersedge Cir, commented that he enjoyed the presentation and asked about the change in rates to his business; would he need to prepare for a 20% in water expenses because he is in tier 3- the highest rate. **Kirkland** responded that he would still fall into tier 1 and would discuss his concerns after the meeting if needed.

Jay Buckmaster asked about how rates are determined. Is it an average throughout the year of usage or determined during peak water times. **Kirkland** responded that they base it on an average during the 4 winter months.

Action: Receive and

Board Agenda

Board Updates and Issues

CM Longwell:

1. *Warren Theatre loan:* Wants to clear up the misconception that this loan was a bailout from the city. Without this loan the theatre would likely close and the tax payers would be responsible for paying off the remainder of the TIF District financing of \$4.5 million. This loan creates the LEAST impact on taxpayers.
2. *Pat Salerno:* Salerno has decided to not take the City Manager position in Wichita. This was a complete shock to the Mayor and Council. He was recently in town on a house hunting trip and even sent the City the bill for his expenses incurred on the trip, which the City has no intention of paying. Longwell is disappointed in Salerno's integrity. Council will start a new CM search and Longwell feels Wichita has a better chance of recruiting qualified candidates due to the recent naming of Wichita being the #1 most livable city in America.
3. *Goodbye to David Dennis:* David has served on the DAB for 8 years which is the most one can serve. Longwell presented a recognition plaque from the City and thanked him for his service. Dennis will remain on the MAPC Board. Longwell named Mike Hill as the new Pro Tem and appointed Pat Ream as a regular DAB member.

Megan Buckmaster: Reminder to RSVP to the DAB Budget Presentation on Thursday, July 24th 6:30 p.m. @ City Hall. CM Longwell would like to host a summer get together at a Wichita Wingnuts game. Buckmaster will send out possible game dates to coordinate the party.

Action: Receive and file.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Buckmaster, Neighborhood Assistant

Guests

April Leason	Park West Plaza, 505 Maize
Jerry Smith	2410 Watersedge Cir
Jane Byrnes	9500 Delano